

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4318

AN ACT

To establish the Red River National Wildlife
Refuge.

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To establish the Red River National Wildlife Refuge.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Red River National
3 Wildlife Refuge Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The area of Louisiana known as the Red
7 River Valley, located along the Red River Waterway
8 in Caddo, Bossier, Red River, Natchitoches, and De
9 Soto Parishes, is of critical importance to over 350
10 species of birds (including migratory and resident
11 waterfowl, shore birds, and neotropical migratory
12 birds), aquatic life, and a wide array of other species
13 associated with river basin ecosystems.

14 (2) The bottomland hardwood forests of the
15 Red River Valley have been almost totally cleared.
16 Reforestation and restoration of native habitat will
17 benefit a host of species.

18 (3) The Red River Valley is part of a major
19 continental migration corridor for migratory birds
20 funneling through the mid continent from as far
21 north as the Arctic Circle and as far south as South
22 America.

23 (4) There are no significant public sanctuaries
24 for over 300 river miles on this important migration
25 corridor, and no significant Federal, State, or pri-

1 vate wildlife sanctuaries along the Red River north
2 of Alexandria, Louisiana.

3 (5) Completion of the lock and dam system as-
4 sociated with the Red River Waterway project up to
5 Shreveport, Louisiana, has enhanced opportunities
6 for management of fish and wildlife.

7 (6) The Red River Valley offers extraordinary
8 recreational, research, and educational opportunities
9 for students, scientists, bird watchers, wildlife ob-
10 servers, hunters, anglers, trappers, hikers, and na-
11 ture photographers.

12 (7) The Red River Valley is an internationally
13 significant environmental resource that has been ne-
14 glected and requires active restoration and manage-
15 ment to protect and enhance the value of the region
16 as a habitat for fish and wildlife.

17 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES OF REFUGE.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
20 the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, consisting
21 of approximately 50,000 acres of Federal lands, wa-
22 ters, and interests therein within the boundaries de-
23 picted upon the map entitled “Red River National
24 Wildlife Refuge—Selection Area”, dated September
25 5, 2000.

1 (2) BOUNDARY REVISIONS.—The Secretary
2 shall make such minor revisions of the boundaries of
3 the Refuge as may be appropriate to carry out the
4 purposes of the Refuge or to facilitate the acqui-
5 sition of property within the Refuge.

6 (3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Secretary
7 shall keep the map referred to in paragraph (1)
8 available for inspection in appropriate offices of the
9 United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

10 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Refuge are the
11 following:

12 (1) To provide for the restoration and conserva-
13 tion of native plants and animal communities on
14 suitable sites in the Red River basin, including res-
15 toration of extirpated species.

16 (2) To provide habitat for migratory birds.

17 (3) To provide technical assistance to private
18 land owners in the restoration of their lands for the
19 benefit of fish and wildlife.

20 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The establishment of the
21 Refuge under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall take
22 effect on the date the Secretary publishes, in the Federal
23 Register and publications of local circulation in the vicinity
24 of the area within the boundaries referred to in that para-
25 graph, a notice that sufficient property has been acquired

1 by the United States within those boundaries to constitute
2 an area that can be efficiently managed as a National
3 Wildlife Refuge.

4 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF REFUGE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer all
6 lands, waters, and interests therein acquired under section
7 5 in accordance with—

8 (1) the National Wildlife Refuge System Ad-
9 ministration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.)
10 and the Act of September 28, 1962 (76 Stat. 653;
11 16 U.S.C. 460k et seq.; commonly known as the
12 Refuge Recreation Act);

13 (2) the purposes of the Refuge set forth in sec-
14 tion 3(b); and

15 (3) the management plan issued under sub-
16 section (b).

17 (b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
19 after the date of the establishment of the Refuge,
20 the Secretary shall issue a management plan for the
21 Refuge.

22 (2) CONTENTS.—The management plan shall
23 include provisions that provide for the following:

24 (A) Planning and design of trails and ac-
25 cess points.

1 (B) Planning of wildlife and habitat res-
2 toration, including reforestation.

3 (C) Permanent exhibits and facilities and
4 regular educational programs throughout the
5 Refuge.

6 (D) Ensuring that compatible hunting,
7 fishing, wildlife observation and photography,
8 and environmental education and interpretation
9 are the priority general public uses of the Ref-
10 uge, in accordance with section 4(a)(3) and (4)
11 of the National Wildlife Refuge System Admin-
12 istration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668ee(a)(3),
13 (4)).

14 (3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
16 provide an opportunity for public participation
17 in developing the management plan.

18 (B) LOCAL VIEWS.—The Secretary shall
19 give special consideration to views by local pub-
20 lic and private entities and individuals in devel-
21 oping the management plan.

22 (c) WILDLIFE INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION
23 CENTER.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
25 struct, administer, and maintain, at an appropriate

1 site within the Refuge, a wildlife interpretation and
2 education center.

3 (2) PURPOSES.—The center shall be designed
4 and operated—

5 (A) to promote environmental education;
6 and

7 (B) to provide an opportunity for the study
8 and enjoyment of wildlife in its natural habitat.

9 (d) ASSISTANCE TO RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMIS-
10 SION.—The Secretary shall provide to the Red River Wa-
11 terway Commission—

12 (1) technical assistance in monitoring water
13 quality, noxious plants, and exotic organisms, and in
14 preventing siltation of prime fisheries habitat; and

15 (2) where appropriate and available, fish for
16 stocking.

17 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF LANDS, WATERS, AND INTERESTS**
18 **THEREIN.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire up to
20 50,000 acres of lands, waters, or interests therein within
21 the boundaries of the Refuge described in section 3(a)(1).

22 (b) INCLUSION IN REFUGE.—Any lands, waters, or
23 interests acquired by the Secretary under this section shall
24 be part of the Refuge.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
3 retary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
4 Act.

5 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

6 For purposes of this Act:

7 (1) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the
8 Red River National Wildlife Refuge established
9 under section 3.

10 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior.

Passed the House of Representatives September 12,
2000.

Attest:

Clerk.